

MARVEL

GILLEN
LARROCA
DELGADO

012

STAR WARS DARTH VADER



delgado
delgado

Book II, Part VI
SHADOWS AND SECRETS

It is a time of unrest. After the Death Star was destroyed by an X-wing pilot, the Sith Lord DARTH VADER has been eager to track down the Force-strong rebel responsible.

Vader's adjutant Inspector Thanoth located THE ANTE, an information broker he suspects has crucial knowledge regarding stolen Imperial credits. Droid archaeologist DR. APHRA gets to The Ante first and buys from him the location of Luke Skywalker, the pilot responsible for the Death Star's demolition.

Darth Vader and Thanoth arrive just in time to discover that Aphra is the one who stole the mission's credits. They manage also to get the location of the Plasma Devils from The Ante before the information broker is killed. Aphra nearly escapes, but Darth Vader and Thanoth now have her cornered....

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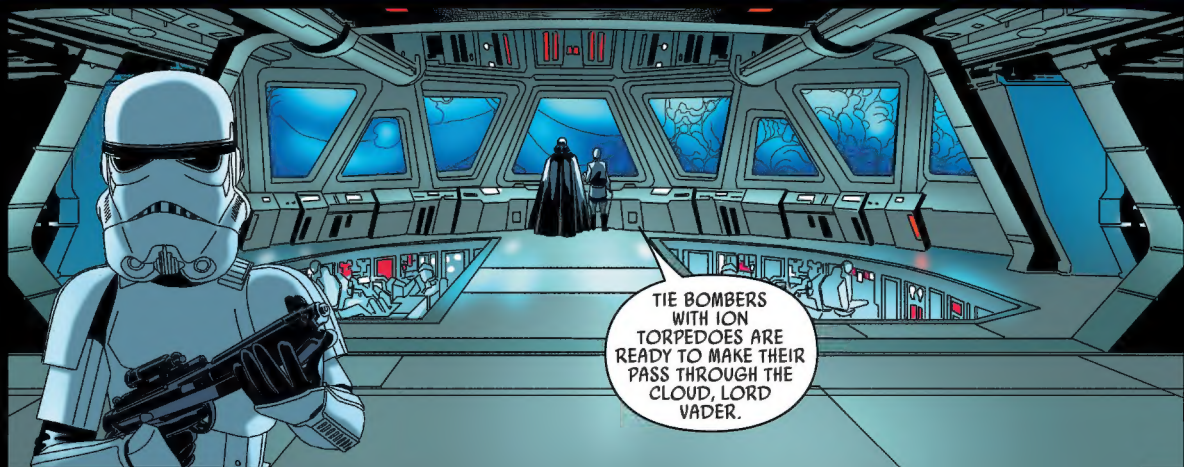
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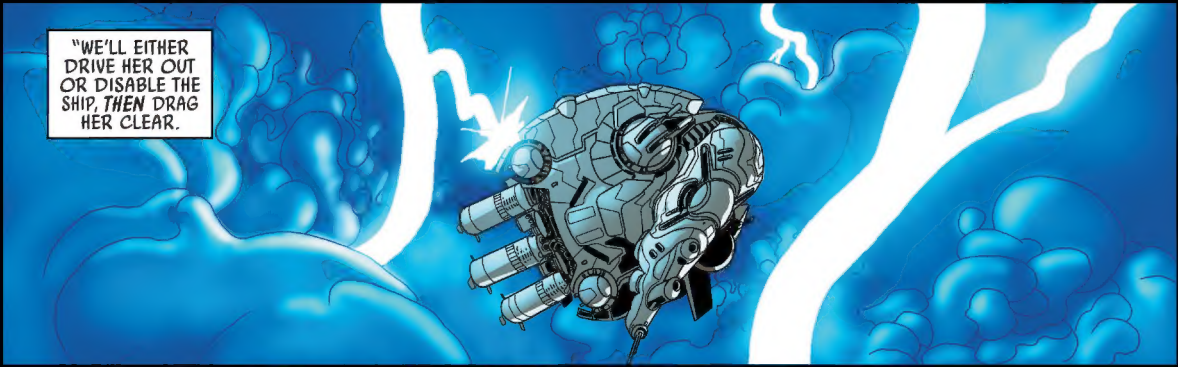




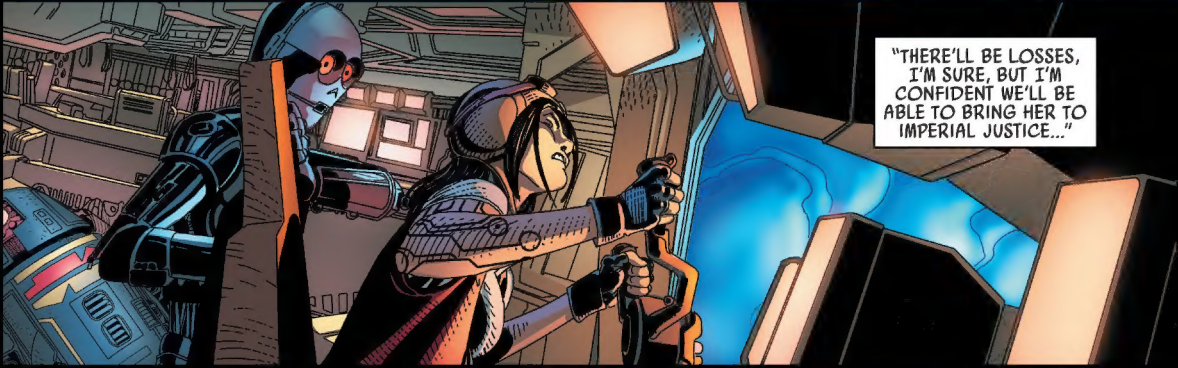
WE HAVE
HER.



TIE BOMBERS
WITH ION
TORPEDOES ARE
READY TO MAKE THEIR
PASS THROUGH THE
CLOUD, LORD
VADER.



"WE'LL EITHER
DRIVE HER OUT
OR DISABLE THE
SHIP, THEN DRAG
HER CLEAR."



"THERE'LL BE LOSSES,
I'M SURE, BUT I'M
CONFIDENT WE'LL BE
ABLE TO BRING HER TO
IMPERIAL JUSTICE..."



"...AND
PERHAPS
EVEN HER
PATRON."



THERE
HAS TO BE
ONE.

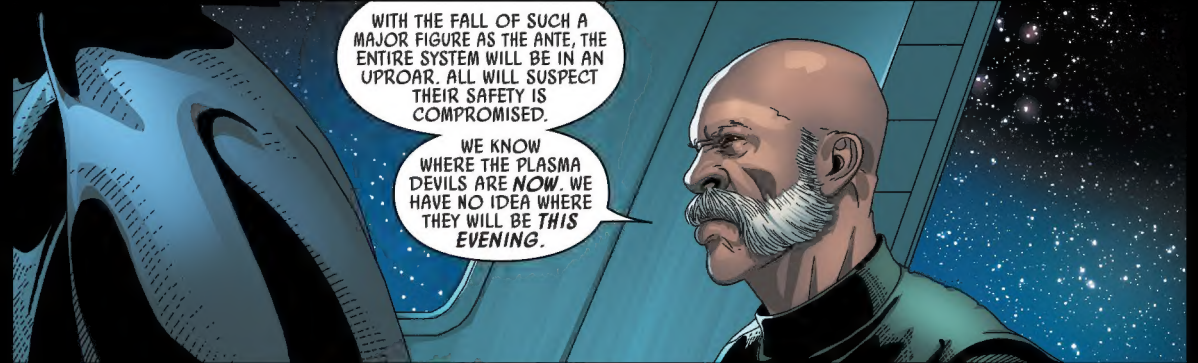
A MISSION
LIKE THIS WOULD
HAVE REQUIRED
AN INTERNAL
LEAK...

HMM.



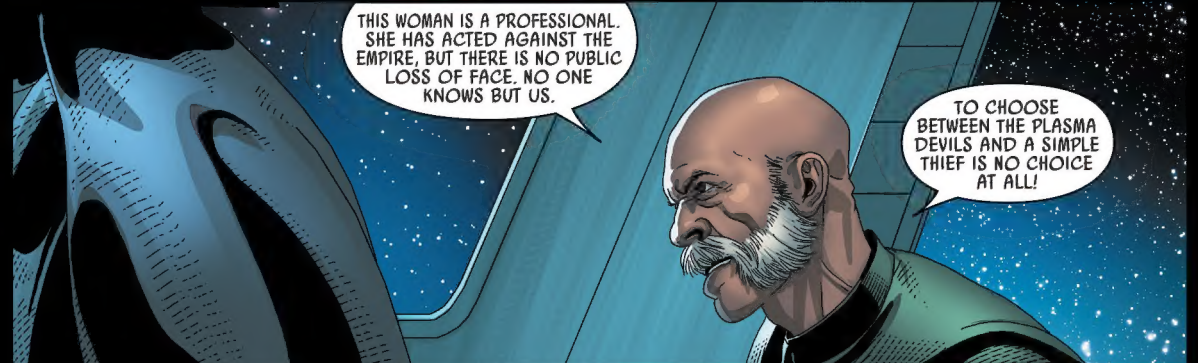
THIS IS
A WASTE.





WITH THE FALL OF SUCH A MAJOR FIGURE AS THE ANTE, THE ENTIRE SYSTEM WILL BE IN AN UPROAR. ALL WILL SUSPECT THEIR SAFETY IS COMPROMISED.

WE KNOW WHERE THE PLASMA DEVILS ARE *NOW*. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEY WILL BE *THIS EVENING*.



THIS WOMAN IS A PROFESSIONAL. SHE HAS ACTED AGAINST THE EMPIRE, BUT THERE IS NO PUBLIC LOSS OF FACE. NO ONE KNOWS BUT US.

TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE PLASMA DEVILS AND A SIMPLE THIEF IS NO CHOICE AT ALL!



THIS WILL MEAN ABANDONING OUR MISSION...

...BUT SURELY IT'S THE ONLY COURSE?



WE ARE IN ACCORD, INSPECTOR.



TAGGE WILL BE DISPLEASED...

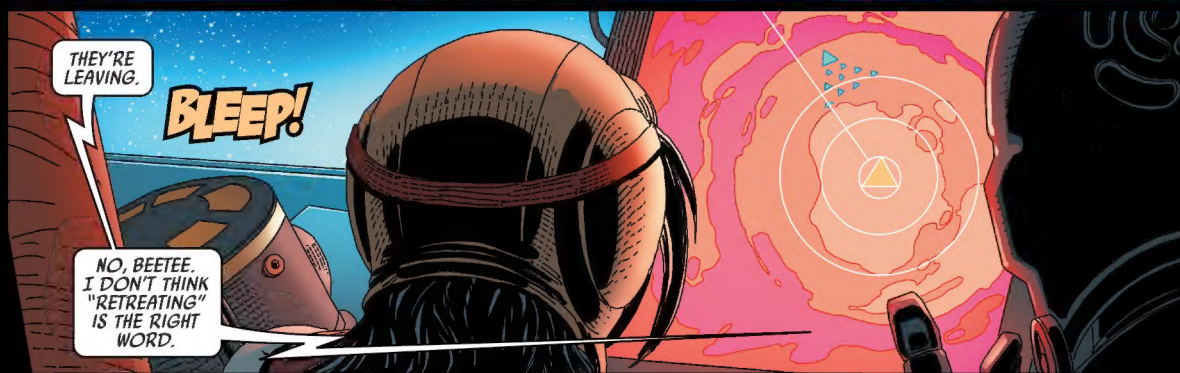
HE WILL BE. IF WE FAIL...



...BUT I DO NOT THINK EITHER OF US IS IN THE BUSINESS OF FAILURE.



"MISTRESS APHRA! THE IMPERIALS!"



THEY'RE LEAVING.

BLEEP!

NO, BEETEE. I DON'T THINK "RETREATING" IS THE RIGHT WORD.



I'M GOING TO LIVE.



FOR NOW, MISTRESS APHRA.

The Thanteen
Substrata,
Anthan 1.

A large, dark, angular spacecraft with three prominent blue circular lights on its top surface is shown in space. A white starburst marks a point on its underside, with a line pointing to a speech bubble. The background features a large, blue, cloudy planet and a starry space.

HMM. A
PROBLEM AND A
PREDICAMENT.

ANTHAN 1
RESTS WITHIN THE
VOLUMINOUS GASEOUS
ATMOSPHERE OF
ANTHAN PRIME
ITSELF...



OUR PROBE
HAS QUIETLY
CONFIRMED THERE'S A
BASE THERE--THE DEN
OF THESE DIABOLIC
PLASMA DEVILS.

APPROACHING
QUIETLY WILL BE
TROUBLESOME, AT LEAST
IN NUMBERS...AND IF THEY
MANAGE TO LAUNCH,
WE'LL LOSE THEM
IN THE MISTS.

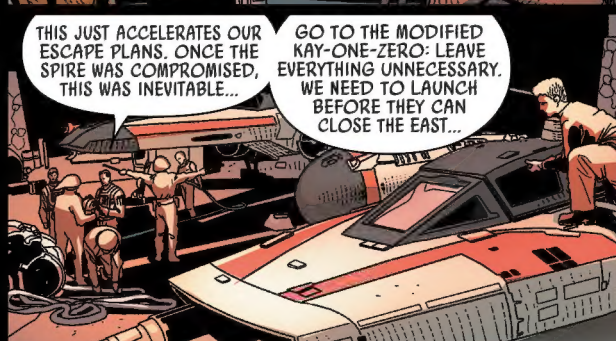
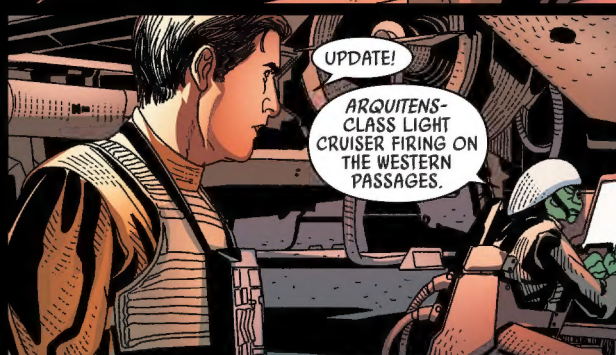
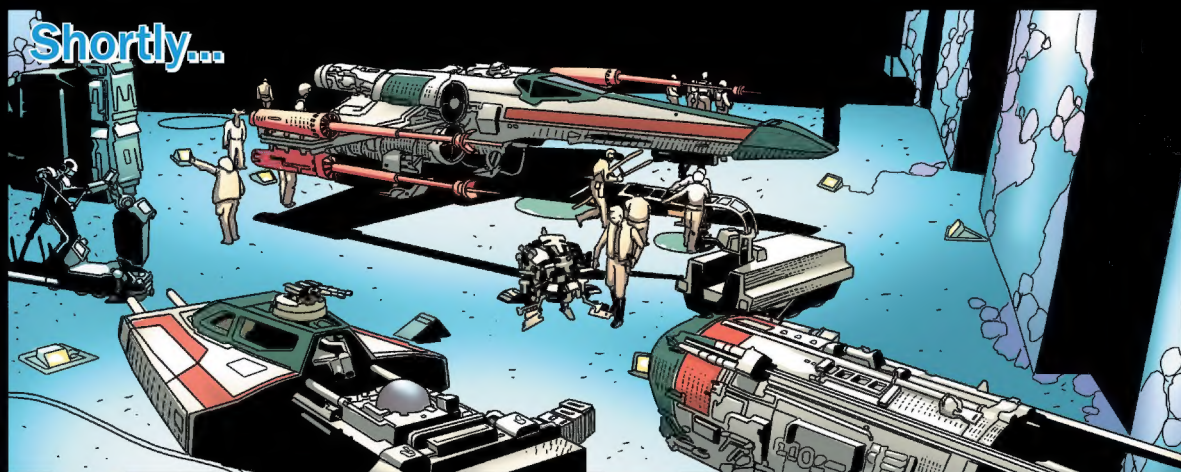


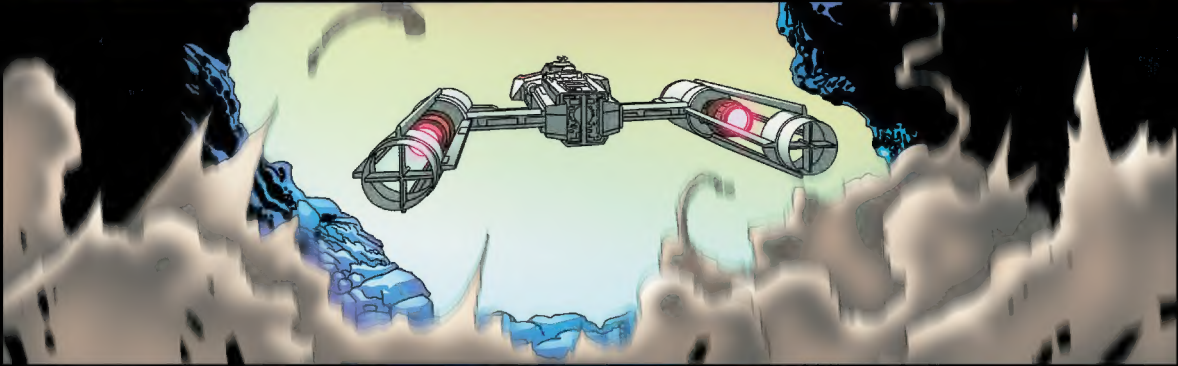
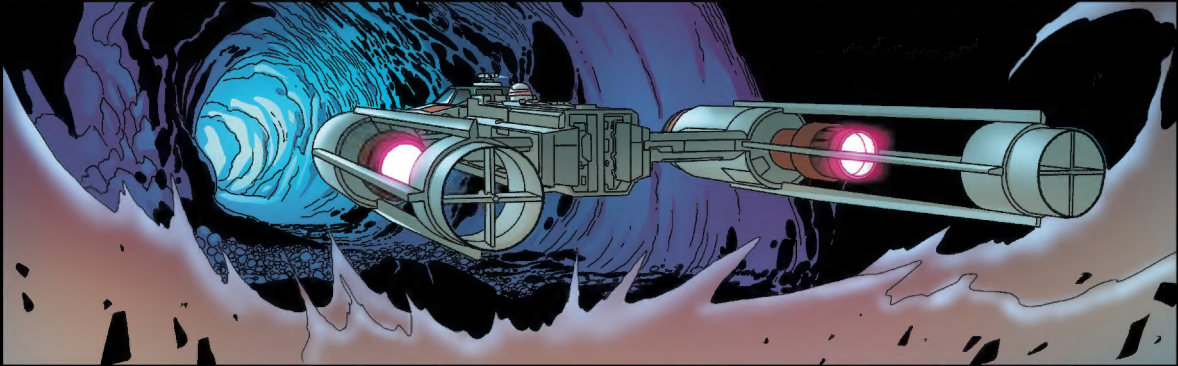
WAIT UNTIL SIGNALLED,
BOMBARD THE
WESTERNMOST TUNNELS.
SEAL THEM.

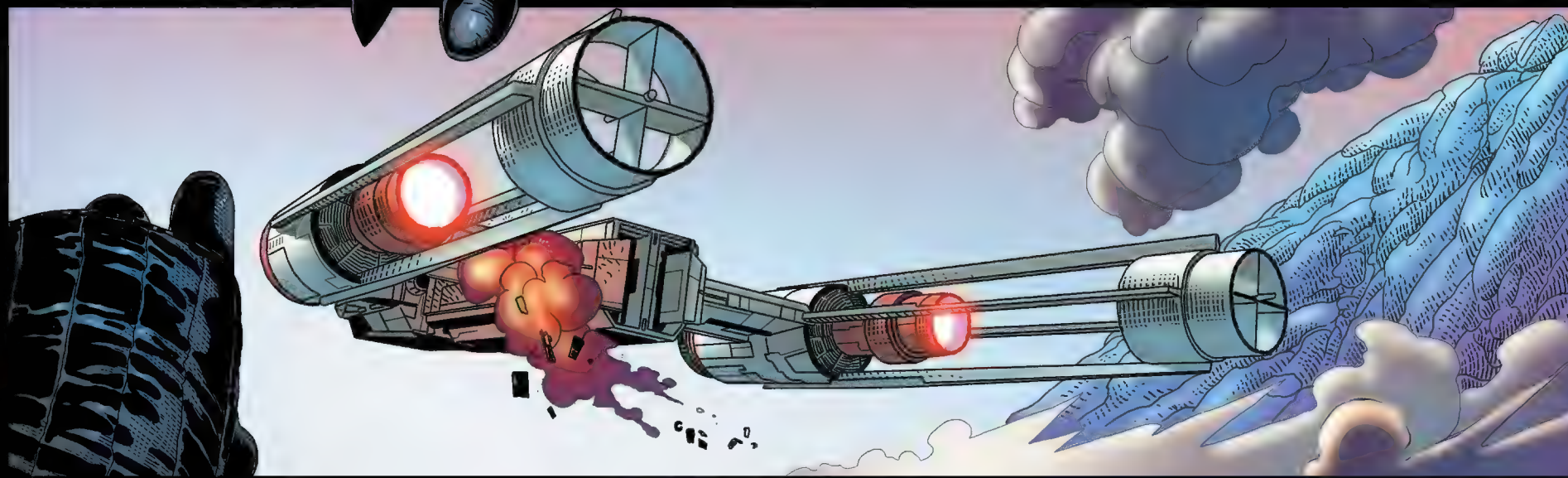
AND
THE EAST
ROUTES?



LEAVE
THEM TO
ME.



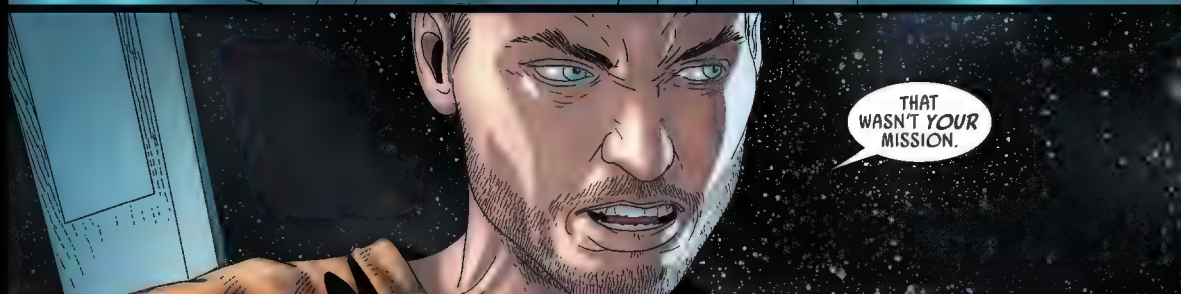








THE PLASMA
DEVILS HAVE BEEN
ANNIHILATED.



THAT
WASN'T YOUR
MISSION.



NO,
IT WAS
YOURS,
MORIT.

YOU AND
YOUR SISTER MAY
THANK US LATER.
NOW YOU HAVE THE
AFTERNOON FREE FOR
DECAPITATING SOME
MORE USEFUL
LEADS.



THIS
IS A GREAT
SUCCESS...

...BUT YOU
LET THE THIEF
ESCAPE, VADER.
IT'S UNLIKELY WE'LL
EVER FIND
THEM AGAIN.



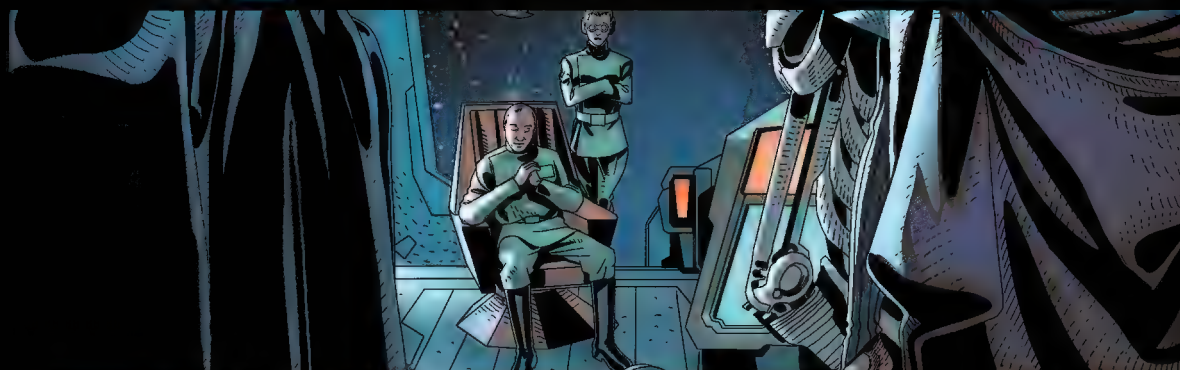
STRICTLY SPEAKING, I
GAVE THE SUGGESTION,
SO IF THERE IS BLAME
TO BE ASSIGNED,
I--

THE
DECISION
WAS MINE.



CHASING
AFTER A FEW
MISSING COINS OR
CRUSHING THE
REBELS?

THAT IS
NOT A
CHOICE.



IN THE
SITUATION AS PRESENTED,
WITH A LIMITED TIME FRAME
AND THE DELAYS THAT
WOULD HAVE RESULTED
DISSEMINATING RELEVANT
INFORMATION TO THE
PROPER PARTIES...

...YOU MADE
THE CORRECT
DECISION.



LOSE
THE SCOWLS,
TWINS.

THE GRAND
GENERAL ISN'T
GOING TO RE-ESTABLISH
REBELS JUST FOR
YOU TO CRUSH,
CHILDREN.



KARBIN, YOU
DON'T GET TO
JUDGE THE TWINS
UNLESS YOU'VE MADE
SOME PROGRESS
IN YOUR OWN
MISSION.



I HAVE MADE
GREAT STEPS
TOWARDS--

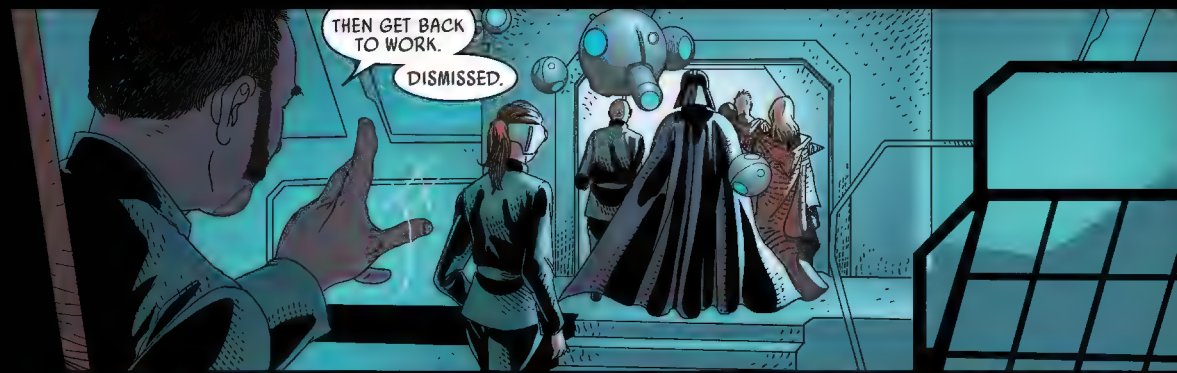
DO YOU
HAVE THE
BOY?



NO, GRAND
GENERAL.
NOT YET.



WHAT A
SURPRISE.



THEN GET BACK
TO WORK.
DISMISSED.



THANK YOU,
LORD VADER. I'VE
HAD COMMANDERS
WHO'D HAVE THROWN THEIR
SUBORDINATE INTO THE
TRASH COMPACTOR IN
SUCH A SITUATION.

I DO
NOT FEAR ANY
OF THESE
FOOLS.

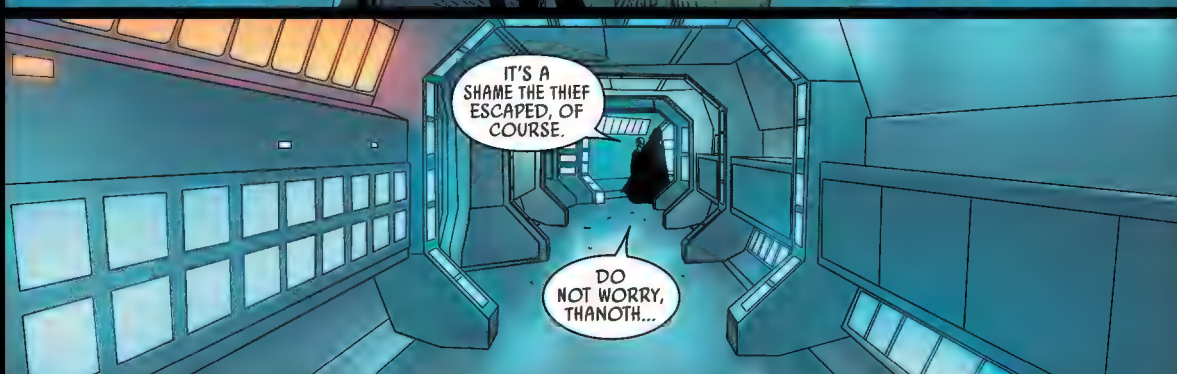


I
CAN SEE
THAT.

IT'S BEEN
AN HONOR,
LORD
VADER.



HAVING A
MINOR MISDEMEANOR
TURN INTO A GRAND
TRIUMPH IS FAR MORE
THAN I WOULD HAVE
HOPED!



IT'S A
SHAME THE THIEF
ESCAPED, OF
COURSE.

DO
NOT WORRY,
THANOTH...

"...SHE WILL NOT ESCAPE JUSTICE."

MISTRESS APHRA. I MUST QUESTION YOUR WISDOM IN COMING HERE.

IF I'M NOT VERY MUCH MISTAKEN, MANIPULATING MASTER VADER BY WITHHOLDING INFORMATION IS THE SORT OF BEHAVIOR ONE WOULD CLASSIFY AS "BLACKMAILING HIM."

HE WAS QUITE CLEAR ON WHAT WOULD RESULT.

THOUGH IT DOES MAKE A DROID WONDER HOW EXACTLY HE'LL TERMINATE YOU.

YES, BEETEE, HE CERTAINLY COULD DO THAT.

OR THAT.

GUYS. NOT HELPING. NOT HELPING AT--

AAAAH!

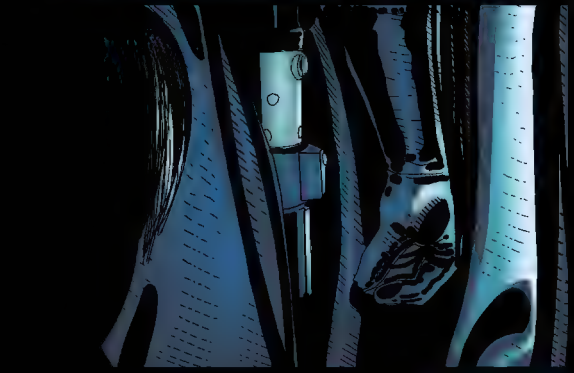
WELL?



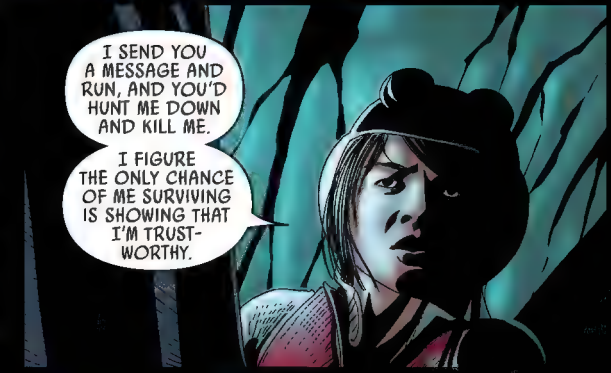
VROGAS
VAS. THE BOY'S
ON VROGAS
VAS.



I AM
SURPRISED TO
SEE YOU HERE,
APHRA.



I SEND YOU
A MESSAGE AND
RUN, AND YOU'D
HUNT ME DOWN
AND KILL ME.



I FIGURE
THE ONLY CHANCE
OF ME SURVIVING
IS SHOWING THAT
I'M TRUST-
WORTHY.

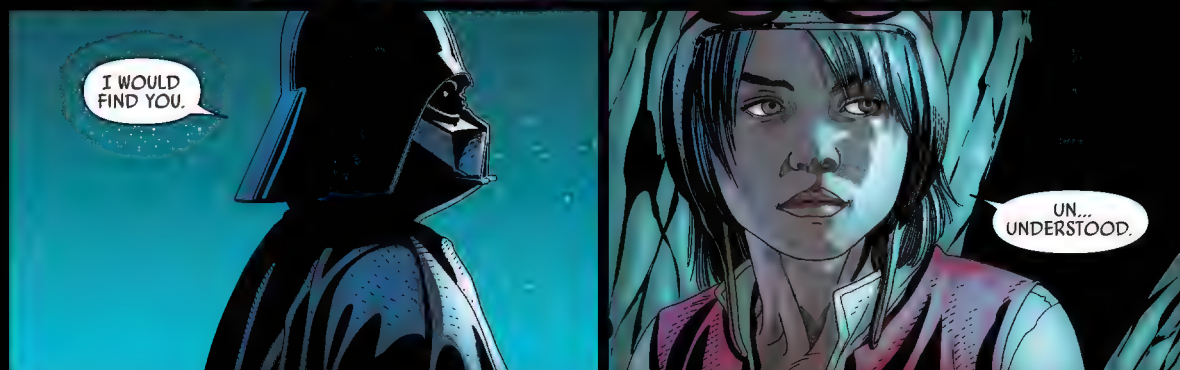
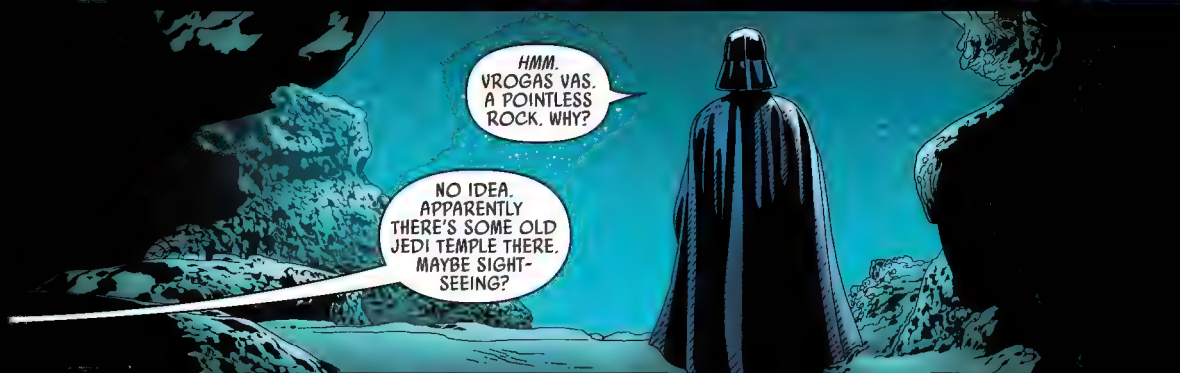


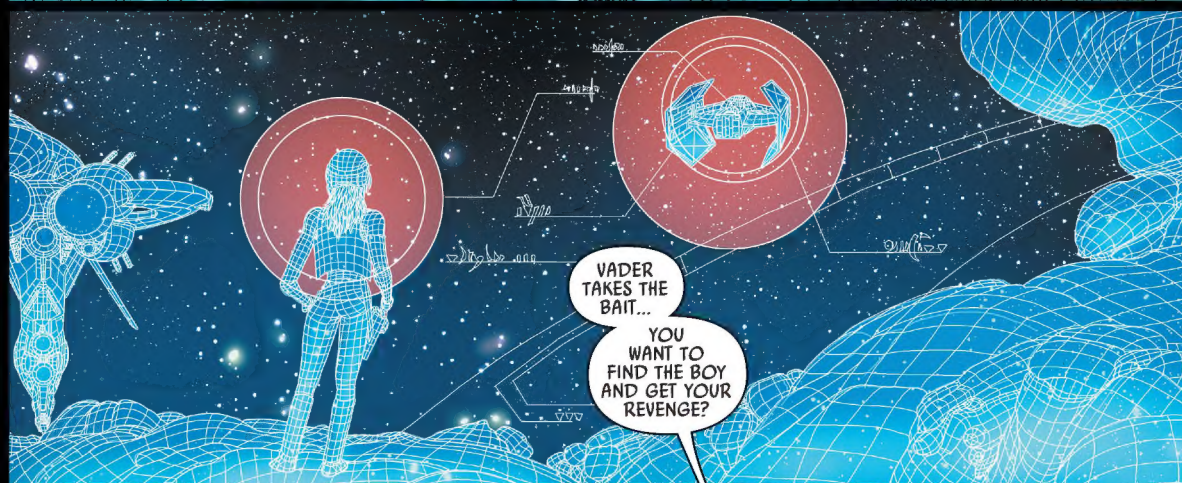
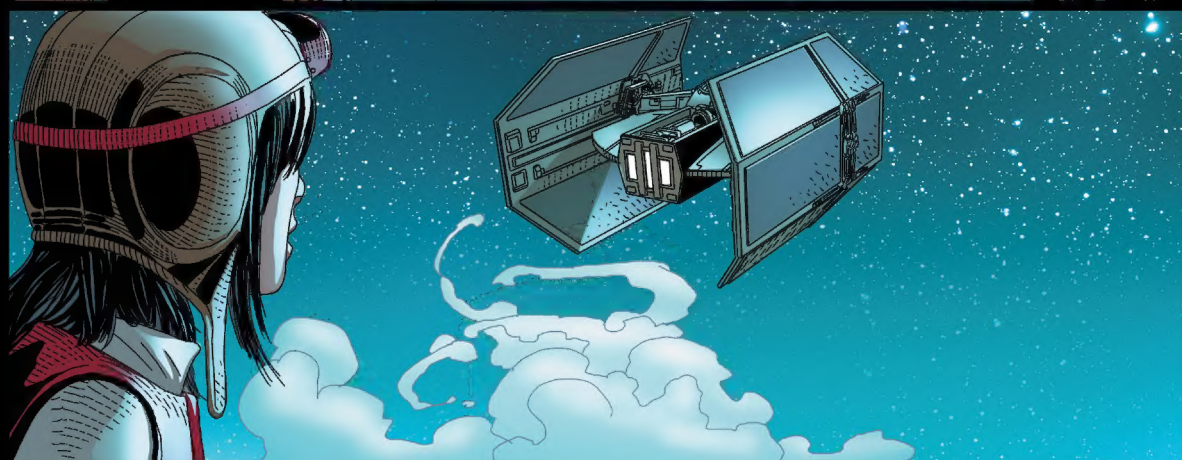
I WANT TO
WORK FOR YOU.
I'VE SHOWN YOU WHAT
I CAN DO. I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING FOR YOU
WHEN I'M DEAD.

YOU'LL
KEEP ME
ALIVE.



HOPEFULLY.







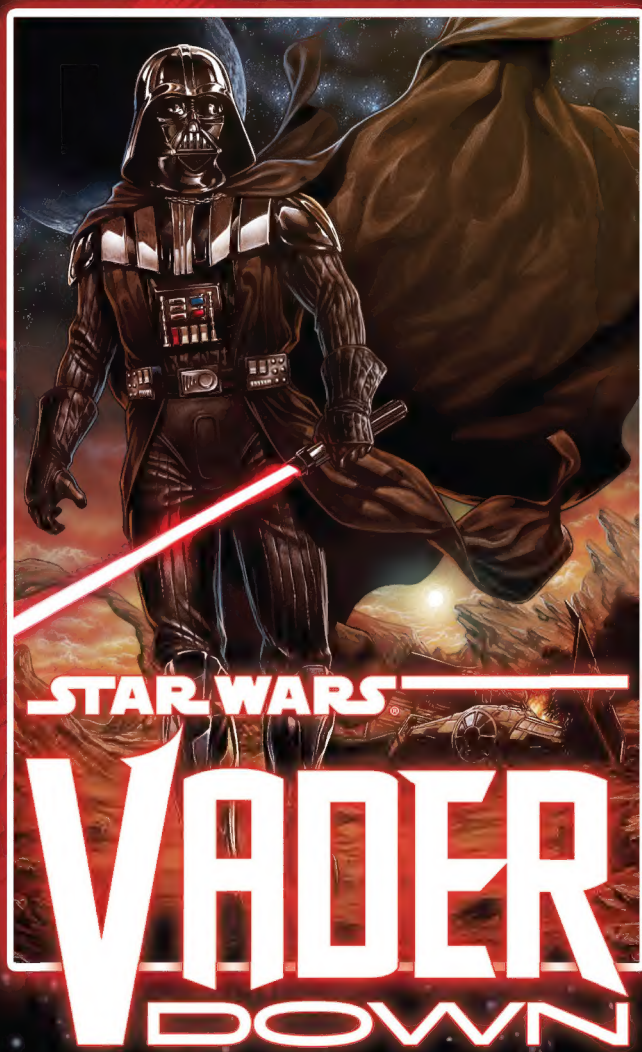
KARBIN
CAN HELP YOU IN
YOUR SHAMELESS
ATTEMPT TO USURP
MY MISSION.

OH, DEAR
RIVAL...YOU *WILL*
FIND THE TROUBLE-
SOME BOY ON
VROGAS VAS...

...BUT HE
WON'T BE
ALONE.

to be
continued
in **VADER
DOWN #1**....

THE SAGA CONTINUES IN...



VADER DOWN #1 - PART 1



DARTH VADER #13 - PART 2



STAR WARS #13 - PART 3



DARTH VADER #14 - PART 4



STAR WARS #14 - PART 5



DARTH VADER #15 - PART 6

• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



Call 555-FISH